PROC. ENTOMOL. SOC. WASH.
88(2), 1986, pp. 391–392

Note

A Search for the Type Series of *Nematocentropus omeiensis* Huang (Lepidoptera: Neopseustidae)

In 1965 (Acta Zootax. Sin. 2: 33–36) Huang Chi-ling of the Nanking College of Agriculture described a relatively inconspicuous but phylogenetically significant moth from Emeishan [sometimes transliterated Omeishan] in Sichuan Province, Peoples Republic of China (PRC). The syntypic series of this new genus and species, *Nematocentropis omeiensis,* consisted of two specimens (male and female), with no mention of their deposition provided. Obviously uncertain as to the family affinities of this primitive moth, Huang mysteriously placed it in the Mnesarchaeidae, a small hepialoid family endemic to New Zealand, on the basis "of the presence of two spurs on the middle tibia."

Küppers and Speidel (1980. Atalanta 11: 55–65) synonymized *Archepiolus* Mutuura (1971. Can. Entomol. 103: 1129–1136), a genus of Neopseustidae described from Assam, India, under *Nematocentropis.* Their decision was based solely upon the published descriptions of these taxa and not upon the examination of actual specimens. Since 1976, I and a few colleagues suspected this synonymy but were hesitant in proposing it until the formerly inaccessible types of *Nematocentropus* could be studied.

During a visit to the PRC in November 1979 as a member of a delegation of museum specialists from the Smithsonian Institution, I had the opportunity to visit several entomological research centers. In the course of this tour, I was able to trace the present deposition of one of Huang's syntypes and, thus, to confirm the synonymy of the two genera in question.

With the assistance of H. F. Chu, Deputy Director of the Institute of Zoology, Academia Sinica in Beijing, we located one syntype of *N. omeiensis* in their collection under the family Eriocraniidae. Its abdomen was missing and further searching revealed no dissected remains. The published illustrations of both the male and female genitalia of *N. omeiensis* indicate that they were drawn *in situ* without dissection. Because a frenulum is absent in this jugate family, it was not possible to determine the sex of the specimen. The wings of the syntype are almost completely denuded, thus imparting a very dissimilar appearance with the fully scaled holotype of *Archepiolus schmidi* Mutuura. Most likely the two species are distinct, as recognized by Küppers and Speidel, although the genitalia drawings by Huang are nearly unintelligible. Until either the missing male is found or additional specimens collected from the type locality, the specific relationship of these two names will remain questionable. In this connection it is pertinent that a recent attempt to collect additional specimens of *N. omeiensis* was made. Mr. and Mrs. Scott Miller visited Emeishan in 1982 on a collecting trip partially sponsored by the Smithsonian Institution (Miller, 1982. Sphecos, No. 6: 17–18). Although originally told that they would be permitted to collect on Emeishan and equipped with portable UV lights for the occasion, they were not permitted to do so once they reached their destination.

During my 1979 visit I also inquired about the presence of the missing *Ne-*

matocentropus material in Nanjing. I was told that the Nanjing College of Agriculture was at the time undergoing considerable reorganization, and that the entomological collection was unavailable for inspection. I was also informed that Mr. Chi-ling Huang had passed away the previous year. Recent inquiries to the Institute of Zoology in Beijing concerning the discovery of any additional material of *Nematocentropus* or the possibility of borrowing the extant type have produced no results.

Donald R. Davis, *Department of Entomology, National Museum of Natural History, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C. 20560.*

PROC. ENTOMOL. SOC. WASH.
88(2), 1986, p. 392

Note

An Unusual Food Plant for Adult *Cerotoma trifurcata* (Forster) (Coleoptera: Chrysomelidae)

On 24 May 1985 adult bean leaf beetles (*Cerotoma trifurcata* (Forster); Coleoptera: Chrysomelidae) were observed feeding on the foliage of *Wisteria floribunda* (Willdenow) (Fabaceae) in a commercial nursery in Saint Mary's Co., Maryland. Recorded host plants of *C. trifurcata* are *Lespedeza* spp., *Amphicarpa* sp. (Chittenden, 1892. Proc. Entomol. Soc. Wash 2: 261–267), *Desmodium* spp., *Vigna unguiculata* (L.) Walpers, *Phaseolus* sp. (Chittenden, 1897. USDA Div. Entomol. Bull. 9: 64–71), *Strophostyles helvola* (L.) Elliott, and *Glycine max* (L.) Merrill (Isely, 1930. Ark. Agric. Expt. Stn. Bull. 248). None of the recorded host plants was seen in the nursery. However, adults were not found feeding on two legumes in the nursery: *Cercis canadensis* L. and *Gleditsia triacanthos* L. Both *Cercis* and *Gleditsia* are in the fabaceous subfamily Caesalpinioideae whereas *Wisteria* and the previously recorded host plants are in the subfamily Papilionoideae (Fernald, 1970. *Gray's Manual of Botany,* 8th ed.). The *W. floribunda* plants were in several blocks scattered over a 0.5 ha. area and *C. trifurcata* adults were collected on plants in each block. This is the first feeding record of *C. trifurcata* on a nursery plant.

Maryland Department of Agriculture Contribution number 41-85.

C. L. Staines, Jr., *Maryland Department of Agriculture, Office of Plant Industries and Pest Management, Plant Protection Section, 50 Harry S. Truman Parkway, Annapolis, Maryland 21401.*